

# NEIGHBORHOOD CORNER

## The Neighborhood Matching Fund is back – Funds Available!

This program helps improve the quality of life in Redmond's neighborhoods by encouraging projects that foster self-help and neighborhood pride, while enhancing and beautifying Redmond's neighborhoods. The City supplies cash for a neighborhood project and the neighborhood matches the City's contribution with local resources of volunteer labor (valued at \$10 per hour), in-kind services, or cash. The maximum award available to each project is \$2500.

To be eligible, projects must:

- provide a public benefit to the neighborhood
- have demonstrated neighborhood support in the affected project area
- have approval from all adjacent property owners
- involve neighborhood residents directly in all phases
- have goals that can be accomplished in 12 months or less
- be located on publicly accessed property
- be within the City's legal jurisdiction
- require low maintenance or be maintained by neighborhood volunteers (if applicable)

To learn more about the program and download an application, check on the City's website at [www.redmond.gov](http://www.redmond.gov) under Community on the City Services page, or contact Marta Hurwitz at 425-556-2427 or [mhurwitz@redmond.gov](mailto:mhurwitz@redmond.gov).

## Education Hill and North Redmond Neighborhood Planning

The City of Redmond's Neighborhood Planning team is working with residents of the Education Hill and North Redmond neighborhoods to update the Neighborhoods section of the Redmond Comprehensive Plan. This article gives an overview of the neighborhood planning process, offers an update on what we've learned so far, and provides information on how to get involved.

### What is the neighborhood section of the Redmond Comprehensive Plan?

Redmond's current Comprehensive Plan was developed in 1995 and sketches a community vision of what Redmond

should be like 20 years from now and policies to carry out that vision. The Comprehensive Plan is intended to help preserve and enhance neighborhood characteristics valued by residents and people who work there.

The plans and policies in the Neighborhood section of the Redmond Comprehensive Plan are designed to reflect the priorities of people who live and work in the neighborhood, describe important neighborhood goals and how to accomplish them, and serve as a guideline for the neighborhood and city decision makers.

### What is a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)?

A CAC is a group of neighborhood residents who will meet over the course of the next six to nine months with the Neighborhood Planning team. Each CAC will explore issues and opportunities within the respective neighborhoods at regularly scheduled meetings. Meetings are open to the general public, and each meeting will highlight one component of neighborhood planning and include experts in their respective fields from City Hall and the community. The goal is to develop and improve existing neighborhood policies within the City's Comprehensive Plan.

### What has happened to date?

On June 14, the residents of Education Hill and North Redmond attended a City Services Fair and Neighborhood Planning





*Nike Park on Education Hill*



*Multi-family homes on Education Hill*

Workshop at Redmond High School. Attendees met in small, facilitated groups and answered two questions: “What components of your neighborhood do you treasure?” and “What issues are you faced with today as a resident of your immediate community?”

We heard some common themes at that event. Many participants prioritized creating a sense of community, striving for pedestrian and bicycle friendliness, improving traffic circulation and calming, and maintaining quality of life and natural spaces.

### **Notes from Education Hill**

We have already heard from some neighborhood residents, who have told us that they are particularly interested in fast transportation alternatives between Education Hill and Downtown; enhancements to the existing parks to encourage community gathering; adding pedestrian safety measures around the schools; and improving

connectivity within and around the neighborhood for cyclists, pedestrians, and equestrians.

A focus group of Education Hill residents identified some additional possible discussion points, including,

- Neighborhood character preservation.
- Housing affordability and compatibility with existing homes.
- Availability of small-scale, neighborhood-oriented services such as a neighborhood café, bakery, or professional office within close walking distance.
- Matching fund opportunities at the neighborhood level.
- Relationship building with Lake Washington School District.
- Enhancing diversity of the community.
- Tree retention in new subdivisions and by private home owners.

### **Notes from North Redmond**

One of the first issues the North Redmond CAC will consider is its boundaries. The current boundaries of the North Redmond Neighborhood are NE 116th Street to the south, NE 124/128th Streets to the north, Avondale

Road NE to the east, and the Redmond-Woodinville Road to the west. However, many of the development issues facing North Redmond are similar to those issues facing properties in the northern portions of Education Hill, including large undeveloped or underdeveloped parcels of land that are accessed predominately off NE 116th Street. When asked whether the City should consider relocation of the neighborhood boundary to the south, attendees at the June 14 Neighborhood Plan Kick-off meeting supported studying this issue further.

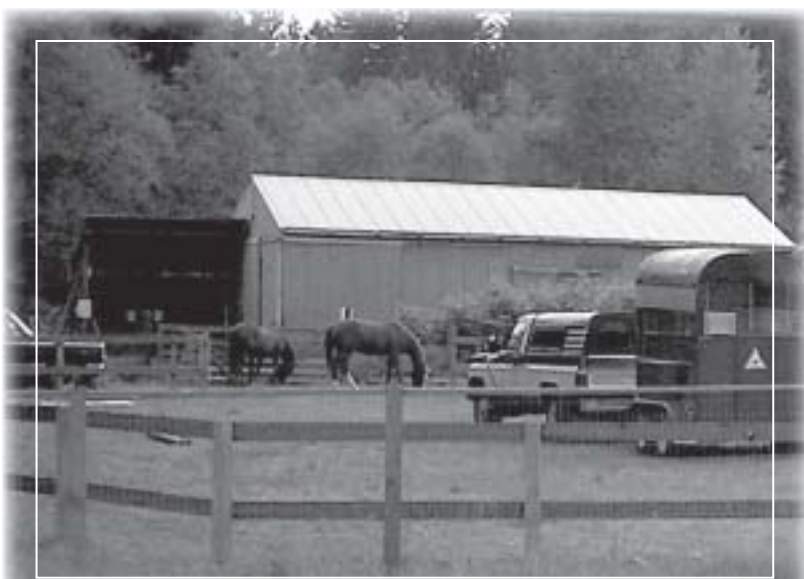
Other issues that the CAC may consider include connectivity, open space and parks, housing and affordability, trails, and whether there should be small scale neighborhood shops in North Redmond. The CAC will also discuss completion of the trail along the north side of NE 116th Street.

### **How can I stay informed?**

CAC meetings are open to the general public. Locations and times are posted on the City’s website:

- Education Hill: [www.redmond.gov/intheworks/edhill/meetinginfo.asp](http://www.redmond.gov/intheworks/edhill/meetinginfo.asp)
- North Redmond: [www.redmond.gov/intheworks/northredmond/meetinginfo.asp](http://www.redmond.gov/intheworks/northredmond/meetinginfo.asp)

The Neighborhoods section of the Planning and Community Development



*Horses along NE 116th Street*



website at [www.redmond.gov/insidecityhall/planning/planning.asp](http://www.redmond.gov/insidecityhall/planning/planning.asp) will provide up to date information on what is happening with planning for each neighborhood. RCTV-21



*Community play area at North Star Development.*



*Protected area adjacent to North Star Development.*

will also announce important dates and events. In addition, stay tuned to the Neighborhood Corner page of future Focus magazines, where we will provide updates, invitations, call to action items and progress reports.

### **How can I get involved?**

Even if you are not serving on a CAC, we would like to hear from you. Please think about the following questions:

1. When you open your front door, how would you like your neighborhood and community to look 20 years from now?
2. What changes will the City have to make to meet your specific needs and the needs of your family 20 years from now?
3. What are some possible future innovations and needs that could change our thinking about today's living standards?
4. How would you enhance the sense of community today in your neighborhood or on your street or block?
5. When you hear the words "sustainable or livable community," what thoughts come to mind?

Please email your ideas to the Neighborhood Planning Team at [neighborhoods@redmond.gov](mailto:neighborhoods@redmond.gov).

### **THANK YOU**

We want to extend a very special thank you to the residents of Education Hill and North Redmond who shared their thoughts at the City Services Fair and Planning Workshop and the Education Hill Focus Group. Thank you also to the residents of North Redmond who participated in the E-mail Focus Group. Your input is important as we strive to learn more about your neighborhood, hear your concerns and work to improve your community, your home, and your city.

Sincerely,

Your Neighborhood Planning Team:

Terry Shirk 425-556-2480, Sarah Stiteler 425-556-2469 and Kimberly Dietz 425-556-2415

## **Redmond Historical Society**

**H**istory is happening in the Redmond area! Please join the Redmond Historical Society at its regular meetings on the second Saturday of every month except July, August, and December, from 10:30 am to 12 pm at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center, 16600 NE 80th Street, Cotterill Auditorium. Each month, speakers cover topics of special interest to Redmond and surrounding residents.

To receive the Redmond Historical Society monthly newsletter, contact Judy Lang at 425-885-2919 or [redmondhistory@msn.com](mailto:redmondhistory@msn.com). The Redmond Historical Society office is located in the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center, 16600 NE 80th Street, Room 106. Office hours are Monday–Thursday, 1– 4 pm. Historic walking tour brochures are available in our office.